

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Please cancel Claims 1-7.

8. (currently amended) A method for reserving a virtual connection from a source workstation to a destination workstation within a network to allow data ~~wherein packets of data are to be transmitted over a network~~ between an ingress node of said source workstation and an egress node of said destination workstation, said method comprising:

    sending a reservation request for a virtual connection from said source workstation to a reservation server, wherein said reservation server includes connection setup means for setting up a virtual connection that meets a predefined Quality of Service (QoS) requirement from said ingress node to said egress node;

determining whether or not ~~verifying that~~ said reservation request may can be validated ~~in view of~~ based on user information within said source workstation, wherein said user information is accessible by said reservation server;

in response to a determination that said reservation request can be validated based on user information within said source workstation, determining whether or not ~~verifying that~~ the capacity of said network is sufficient to meet the requirements of said reservation request; and

    in response to a determination that the capacity of said network being sufficient to meet the requirements of said reservation request, establishing a virtual connection from said ingress node to said egress node.

9. (currently amended) The method ~~according to~~ of claim 8, wherein said ~~step of verifying that determining whether or not~~ said request ~~may~~ can be validated further ~~comprises~~ includes:

verifying the an authentication of a user associated with said user information; and

verifying ~~the~~ user rights of said user to obtain said virtual connection.

10. (currently amended) The method ~~according to~~ of claim 8, wherein said method further ~~comprising~~ includes in response to an insufficient capacity of said ~~IP~~ network with respect to a previous reservation request, delivering a new reservation request from said source workstation to said reservation server, wherein said new reservation request includes new parameters that are set in accordance with the capacity of said network as reported from said reservation server to said source workstation.

11. (currently amended) The method ~~according to~~ of claim 8, wherein said method further ~~comprising~~ includes delivering from said reservation server to said ingress and egress nodes information required to set up a virtual connection from said ingress node to said egress node and a flow identification of the communications to be established such that said ingress node may transmit any data packet received from said source workstation over said virtual connection.

12. (currently amended) The method ~~according to~~ of claim 11, wherein ~~the~~ said information sent by said reservation server to said ingress and egress nodes to set up a virtual connection includes a FlowID identifying ~~the~~ a flow that corresponds ~~corresponding to~~ the communications to be established over said virtual connection.

13. (currently amended) The method ~~according to~~ of claim 12, wherein said method further ~~comprising~~ includes comparing a FlowID of a new packet received by said ingress node with at least one FlowID corresponding to at least one reserved virtual connection that has been established from said reservation server to said ingress node.

14. (currently amended) The method ~~according to~~ of claim 12, wherein said method further comprising includes delivering a RouteID from said reservation server to said ingress and egress nodes, wherein said RouteID identifies a route already known by said ingress and egress nodes.

15. (currently amended) The method ~~according to~~ of claim 11, wherein the headers of all packets belonging to ~~the~~ a flow using said virtual connection includes a source address, a destination address, a port number, and a Quality of Service identifier.

Please add Claims 16-23 as follows:

16. (new) An apparatus for reserving a virtual connection from a source workstation to a destination workstation within a network to allow data packets to be transmitted between an ingress node of said source workstation and an egress node of said destination workstation, said apparatus comprising:

means for sending a reservation request for a virtual connection from said source workstation to a reservation server, wherein said reservation server includes connection setup means for setting up a virtual connection that meets a predefined Quality of Service (QoS) requirement from said ingress node to said egress node;

means for determining whether or not said reservation request can be validated based on user information within said source workstation, wherein said user information is accessible by said reservation server;

in response to a determination that said reservation request can be validated based on user information within said source workstation, means for determining whether or not the capacity of said network is sufficient to meet requirements of said reservation request; and

in response to a determination that the capacity of said network being sufficient to meet requirements of said reservation request, means for establishing a virtual connection from said ingress node to said egress node.

17. (new) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said determining whether or not said request can be validated further includes:

means for verifying an authentication of a user associated with said user information; and

means for verifying user rights of said user to obtain said virtual connection.

18. (new) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said apparatus further includes in response to an insufficient capacity of said network with respect to a previous reservation request, means for delivering a new reservation request from said source workstation to said reservation server, wherein said new reservation request includes new parameters that are set in accordance with the capacity of said network as reported from said reservation server to said source workstation.

19. (new) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said apparatus further includes means for delivering from said reservation server to said ingress and egress nodes information required to set up a virtual connection from said ingress node to said egress node and a flow identification of communications to be established such that said ingress node may transmit any data packet received from said source workstation over said virtual connection.

20. (new) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said information sent by said reservation server to said ingress and egress nodes to set up a virtual connection includes a FlowID identifying a flow that corresponds to communications to be established over said virtual connection.

21. (new) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said apparatus further includes means for comparing a FlowID of a new packet received by said ingress node with at least one FlowID

corresponding to at least one reserved virtual connection that has been established from said reservation server to said ingress node.

22. (new) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said apparatus further includes means for delivering a RouteID from said reservation server to said ingress and egress nodes, wherein said RouteID identifies a route already known by said ingress and egress nodes.

23. (new) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein headers of all packets belonging to a flow using said virtual connection includes a source address, a destination address, a port number, and a Quality of Service identifier.